



# the HOWLER



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## DRUG DEALERS TAKE A LICKING

*By Christine Titus, Volunteer Programs Coordinator*



Seattle's shelter for homeless and lost and found pets is located at 2061 15th Avenue West—one mile south of the Ballard Bridge.

### HOURS

Tues–Sat: Noon–6 p.m.  
Sun: Noon–4 p.m.

### PHONE

(206) 386-PETS (7387)

### WEB SITE

[www.seattleanimalshelter.org](http://www.seattleanimalshelter.org)

At Seattle Animal Shelter (SAS), we understand the importance of finding the right home – not just any home – for our orphans. A good match between families and their companion animals makes for a happy lifelong relationship. But sometimes the perfect match doesn't appear right away, and it takes some work to find the right fit. This is the story of Lance, one of our more active orphans, who climbed into our hearts and convinced us his place in the world was out there, somewhere, if we would just keep looking.

I first met Lance while walking through the main kennels of the shelter. There he was, a big, goofy, out-of-control Rottweiler. "He keeps licking the front of his kennel," the staff would tell me. I could see from the

slobbery mess on the front of his cage that they weren't kidding. It's not easy to find the right home for a large dog that likes to jump all over you, let alone one that creates a mess like that. Sure enough, once he was adopted, he was quickly returned.

Lance went back to licking his kennel at SAS, and I worried about where we might place him. My concern grew when volunteers told me they couldn't walk Lance anymore. "He keeps jumping up and chewing on his leash. He's very friendly, but we just can't handle him." These are experienced volunteers, who are used to walking dogs that have very little leash training, so I wondered what to do.

I decided to ask a local dog trainer/behaviorist to evaluate Lance. During one of our

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## DRUG DEALERS TAKE A LICKING...

dog-handling seminars for volunteers, I brought Lance along as “the project.” The trainer determined that Lance would make a great working dog. Like other breeds in the working group, Lance needed a job to focus his energy.

Lance went to a volunteer foster family (one of SAS’s most valuable resources) where he could take a break from the noisy kennel environment. Meanwhile, I began searching for the perfect career for this four-legged bundle of energy.

I remembered reading an article in the paper about a pit bull that had been rescued from a local shelter by the Washington State Patrol (WSP). The dog was trained by WSP to search ferries for explosives. Not only was this a positive story about a pit bull, it made me wonder if this could be an option for Lance.

WSP took Lance for a trial run. Just three days later, Trooper James Riley called to say, “He’s a great dog, very smart, but we don’t think he will want to work all the cars that go on the ferry.” Trooper Riley explained that bomb-sniffing dogs need an extraordinary level of drive to search hundreds of cars in a day’s work. “Oh yeah, and what’s with all the licking?”

Uh-oh. Now what was I going to do? I pleaded with Trooper Riley, “Please don’t bring him back. Isn’t there something you can do for this dog?” I could tell that Lance’s gentle nature had touched Trooper Riley, who then paused and said, “Well, maybe Sergeant Barbara Davenport of the Washington State Department of Corrections could take him. She always needs dogs and has a real understanding of Rottweillers.”

I did some research and discovered that Sergeant Davenport trains drug dogs for all local enforcement agencies in the Northwest and Hawaii. She works with dogs that

don’t make good family dogs and teaches them to detect narcotics. When she’s not training drug dogs, she works internationally with dogs for the University of Washington Center for Conservation Biology. Conservation dogs help scientists more efficiently track target species in their natural settings. I could tell Lance would be in good hands and was hopeful that this might be his match.

Two months later, I visited Lance at McNeil Island Penitentiary with James Jackson, one of our Humane Law Enforcement Officers. We wanted to observe the training and see if they had made any progress with Lance. We couldn’t have been more pleased. Lance was in his element. We watched as Lance and other wildly happy dogs sniffed out drugs by jumping up on couches and tearing off the pillows. Where else would dogs get rewarded for such behavior? When I asked Sergeant Davenport how Lance was doing with the training, she said, “He’s a great drug dog. Did you know he licks his cage?” I smiled.

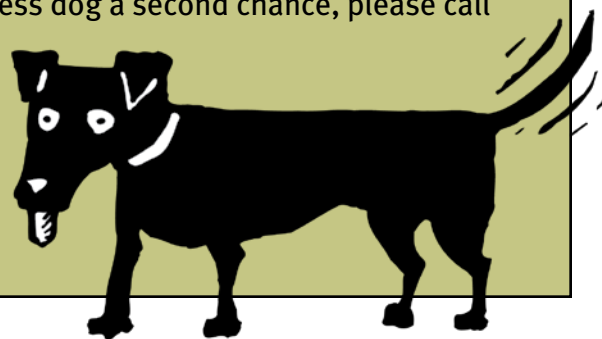
Eventually, Lance found his dream job with Officer Bill Renfro, a ten-year veteran with the Bremerton Police Department. Officer Renfro had spent five years working in the drug division and was in training to work with narcotics dogs when he spotted Lance. It was a perfect match. Lance rides in a patrol car with Officer Renfro each day and is completely at ease with his new partner. Officer Renfro taught Lance to find dirty money – a term used for money handled by drug dealers – and within just a few weeks on the job, Lance had sniffed out nearly \$37,000. His story was featured on a local television news station.

Just as important, Officer Renfro and his family have welcomed Lance into their home and hearts. At night, Lance goes home with Officer Renfro and spends quality time playing with Renfro’s children. Life is good. Lance is no longer homeless, has a great job, and is contributing to society. Officer Renfro recently said to me, “Do you know he licks my car?” I just keep smiling.

## SAS FOSTER DOG PROGRAM

SAS orphans are always looking for foster homes. Each foster home has a heart-warming success story to tell. If you would like to give a homeless dog a second chance, please call 206-615-0820, and find out where you can attend our next volunteer orientation. In the meantime, you can view our dogs in foster care at [www.seattleanimalshelter.org](http://www.seattleanimalshelter.org)

**WARNING: FOSTERING MAY BECOME ADDICTIVE.**



# MEET DAHLIA

We currently have roughly 300 cats and kittens in foster care, with the majority of these animals needing veterinary care. Before the advent of the Help the Animals Fund, the cats and kittens requiring special medical care had to be humanely euthanized. However, these days not only do our deserving felines receive the medical care they sorely need, the cats are placed into temporary foster homes while they recover.

Meet Dahlia, an orange striped tabby who looks like she was dipped in white paint. Dahlia is a great example of how the Help the Animals Funds can be a hugely influential force in a cat's life.

This time last summer Dahlia was a frantic stray, barely 7 months old and pregnant, scrounging around West Seattle hoping to find any morsel of food. Her deep orange fur was oily and caked with dirt, her sad, skinny frame enhanced only by her golden, almond shaped eyes. Perhaps desperation caused Dahlia to dart into the road, we will never know. What we do know is that, strangely, her story took a turn for the better after a car hit her late one August evening.

A police officer stumbled upon her and rushed Dahlia to the after-hours emergency clinic where they kept her stabilized. Seattle Animal Shelter assumed responsibility for Dahlia and the following morning had her transported to a veterinary clinic where they wired her broken jaw and confirmed she was near term in her pregnancy. Dahlia was brought to the shelter where the shelter staff and volunteers took turns helping her to lap up liquid food. She never once refused to eat or uttered a single complaint.

It was at the shelter where Dahlia gave birth to several kittens. The force of the trauma resulted in three of the kittens being stillborn but remarkably two kittens lived, one a girl, the other a boy. The stress of the accident lowered her immunity and she developed an upper respiratory infection while her kittens were treated for pneumonia. It was then that Dahlia went into foster care and got a room to call her own. But, as you may have guessed, Dahlia's life had been saved but her suffering wasn't finished.

Dahlia weighed less than 6 pounds when full term and her fur looked sparse and dull. She had suffered a concussion and was slowly recovering from a traumatic brain



injury. In spite of all this, Dahlia's maternal instincts were strong--she fed, groomed and loved her babies. But it took some time for her brain to heal and she needed extra supervision; instead of moving her kittens by the scruff of the neck she tried grabbing their bellies.

Four weeks to the day of giving birth Dahlia stopped nursing. She developed a severe case of diarrhea needing extensive treatment. Several weeks passed. Dahlia looked robust and healthy and was spayed. However, the stress of the surgery appeared to have activated a virus she had been exposed to on the streets and she came down with ocular herpes. Once again Dahlia received medical treatment and we learned that the car accident left her with a significant reduction of sight in her right eye. Dahlia's eye healed and we all figured this was finally the end of this chapter in her life.

But all good stories have an unexpected twist before the end and Dahlia's story is no exception. This past winter Dahlia's breath became undeniably foul and back to the veterinarian she went. This time we were told she needed dental surgery. The Help the Animals Fund covered the cost and Dahlia lost fifteen teeth. And, once again, Dahlia did not complain. Not before, during or after the surgery. In fact, she rarely meows. There are only two things that will spur her to act out: an empty food bowl and a cry of distress, human or feline.

Dahlia is a remarkable cat but really, so are all the animals that pass through the shelter. She loves to play, she loves to sleep on a heated pad no matter what the season, and she absolutely loves to stand on her favorite lap, paws firmly on her human's face to snuggle lovingly face-to-face. I strongly suspect Dahlia understands she was worth every penny and every minute we all devoted to her recovery.

# NEXT GEN PET OWNERS SET GREAT EXAMPLE

*By Virginia Dalton, Animal Care Supervisor*

Last March I received a wonderful phone call from a young student attending the Meridian School. She wanted to know if her fifth grade class could come to the shelter to do a community project. Even though volunteers need to be at least 18 years old to work directly with the orphans, there are many other ways young people can help out shelter animals. After speaking with their teacher, Craig Downing, we came up with a plan to beautify the outdoor Canine Corral.

On a foggy morning in May, Mr. Downing, several parents, and a class of glove-clad students arrived with an SUV full of drought-tolerant shrubs, potting soil, and boundless energy. They planted several beautiful bushes, and, during short breaks, helped entertain a young, gentle shelter dog in the Corral.

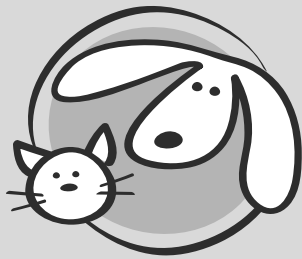
After sprucing up the outdoor space, the students toured the inside of the shelter to meet more of the

orphans. The students asked great questions and learned why over 8,000 animals come through our doors each year. They also learned how we can all work together to lower those numbers.

- Spay and neuter our pets
- License our pets and make sure they are wearing current identification
- Adopt our next pet from an animal shelter
- Report and suspicion of animal abuse
- Make certain to research the needs of an animal before you bring him/her home
- Make a lifetime commitment to your pet

If these students are typical of the next generation of pet owners, there will be fewer animals in the shelter and many lucky animals in the world.

Thank you, Meridian students!



## Free Classes

2005 – 2006

**Seattle Animal Shelter** is pleased to offer free, one hour programs on Companion Animal Care to kids in grades 4. We come to your school to help students learn how they can help the animals in their homes and communities.

🐾 **Topics covered include** • Responsibility and costs of owning a pet • How to know if you're ready to be a "pet parent" • Physical and emotional needs of companion animals • Pet overpopulation (and our role in solving the problem) • What to do if you see an animal that is being neglected or abused • How to stop the crime of dog fighting in our city. Lively presentations, games and discussion will encourage audience participation.

🐾 These classes are provided free of charge. Donations to our Help the Animals Fund are encouraged. We come to your classroom. To learn more about our companion animal care program contact Michelle at (206) 459-4032.



Find out how to make your dog or cat happy and healthy - become a good "pet parent"



# LEADER OF THE PACK: 2005 FURRY 5K MOST SUCCESSFUL EVENT

by Irene VanNostrand



The sun found its way out from behind the clouds just in time for the start of the Seattle Animal Shelter's 6th Annual Furry 5K Fun Run and Walk.

It's a tremendous feeling, being sur-

rounded by thousands

of people and dogs all gathering, running and walking for a good cause. It's this feeling that makes the Furry 5K such a unique event and demonstrates the generosity and heart of all those who participate.

This year's event was a huge success: 2,685 humans, 1,599 dogs (including 576 shelter rescues!), 1 kitty and sponsors raised over \$93,000, all of which goes to the Help the Animals Fund. This fund makes it possible for all shelter animals to receive the veterinary care they so desperately need.

Whether two-legged, three-legged (for some of our disabled canines), or four-legged, finishers' race times were impressive, and fun was had by all.

**TOP 3 OVERALL MEN:** Floyd Bangeter 16:25 (5:18/mile), Greg Devore 16:37 (5:22/mile), and John Ohearn 16:48 (5:25/mile).

**TOP 3 OVERALL DOGS WITH MALE HANDLER:** Dyna (Labrador mix) with Floyd Bangeter 16:25 (5:18/mile); Jenna (Vizsla) with John Ohearn 16:48 (5:25/mile); and Oliver (Labrador) with John Berta 17:40 (5:42/mile).

**TOP 3 OVERALL WOMEN:** Kelly Strong 18:06 (5:50/mile), Sarah Gist 19:19 (6:14/mile), Shelly Hack 20:13 (6:31/mile), and Deborah Fletcher 20:42 (6:40/mile).

**TOP 3 OVERALL DOGS WITH FEMALE HANDLER:** Zoe (Border Collie) with Deborah Fletcher 20:42 (6:40/mile); Edgar (Mixed breed) with Madeline Engle 0:21:30.0 (6:57/mile); and Scout (Shepard mix) with Wendy Steiner 0:21:31.4 (6:58/mile)

In addition to the tremendous support from the community, SAS would like to send a giant thank you to our sponsors and vendors. It is because of their continued support

that the Seattle Animal Shelter is able to produce this fun, annual community event and continue to help animals in need!

A special thank you to Ped Shoes (located at 1115 First Ave - [www.pedshoes.com](http://www.pedshoes.com)). Ped Shoes has been the main sponsor for the past several years. Their continued sponsorship has been a key factor in allowing us to continue to improve the event year after year.

KBSG also deserves a special thank you for their support and for Randy Lundquist, who did an excellent job of making the awards ceremony fun and entertaining.

Thanks to Great Harvest for providing food, Talking Rain for water, and Taco Del Mar for their continued support. We'd also like to thank Petco, not only for their support of the Furry 5K, but also for their donations throughout the year to the Seattle Animal Shelter. Finally, a thank you to Academy Press for the high-quality printing of our materials.

In addition to those sponsors listed above, thank you to all of sponsors for making this event such a success:

Iams • Cliff Bar • Metro Dog • MyRaceDay.com • Crystal Light • All the Best Pet Care • Barking Lounge • Macy's Seattle Veterinary Specialists • Darwin's Pets • Tablet • Seattle Canine Club • Seattle Sounders • Westin HotelHotel Monaco • Puppies Tunes • Mountaineer Books • Heavenly Spa • Pacific Science Center • Rain City Yoga • Landmark Theaters • Pacific Northwest Ballet • UW School of Music • Seattle Opera • Shoes-N-Feet • Bark • Grand Central Bakery • Seattle Storm • Downtown Dog Lounge • Enrid Groves • Essenza • Greenies • Jakes Dog Houses • Seattle Mariners • Northwest Runner • OutdoorsNW

*Thank you to our 41 vendors who represented a variety of interests from pet-related products and services, artwork, food, and other non-profit resources.*



# FREE SPAY AND NEUTER AVAILABLE AT THE SEATTLE ANIMAL SHELTER

Seattle Animal Shelter Targets Pet Overpopulation in Seattle

SEATTLE – As part of an ongoing program, anyone who brings a litter of puppies or kittens to the Seattle Animal Shelter is eligible to have the parent animals spayed or neutered for free. Summer is the “busy season” at the shelter, with unwanted litters of puppies and kittens arriving everyday.



This free offer is made possible by donations to the city’s “Pet Population Control Fund.” The fund also helps pay for spaying and neutering pets owned by

low-income, elderly, disabled, homeless or other persons who would otherwise not be able to afford the cost of sterilizing their pets.

“The greater Seattle area faces a pet overpopulation problem. Thousands of orphaned animals are needlessly euthanized each year in this region simply because there are not enough homes for them,” says Seattle Animal Shelter Manager Don Jordan. “We can help address this problem by spaying and neutering companion animals. By ending these unwanted births, we reduce the needless suffering orphaned animals endure, and ultimately improve the quality of life for people and animals in our community.” Although the Seattle Animal Shelter will not turn away anyone with a litter, Jordan says kittens really need to stay with their mothers and littermates for at least 10 weeks. He says people tend to separate litters from their mothers too early, like at five to seven weeks, which can create behavior problems throughout a cat’s life, according to Jordan.

“As long as citizens continue to support the ‘Pet Population Control Fund,’ the offer will continue indefinitely,” Jordan says. He hopes this program will discourage people from leaving boxes of puppies and kittens on the side of the road or in front of grocery stores. “Instead, if people bring these litters to the shelter, we have the opportunity to evaluate their health, administer vaccinations, and

have them adopted by qualified owners thus improving the quality of life for these young animals,” adds Jordan. For more information about this free spay and neuter program and other Seattle Animal Shelter services, call (206)386-PETS(7387)

## CAT AND DOG OVERPOPULATION FACTS

- Two unaltered cats and all their descendants can number 420,000 in just seven years.<sup>1</sup>
- Two unaltered dogs and all their descendants can number 67,000 in just six years.<sup>1</sup>
- “No homes for littermates” is one of the top ten reasons people relinquish their cats and dogs to shelters.<sup>2</sup>
- The top reason both cat guardians and dog guardians give for not having their pet altered is that they simply have not bothered to do it yet.<sup>3</sup>
- 20 percent of cat guardians think their cat is too young to be altered, and 18 percent say they are not able to afford spay/neuter surgery.<sup>3</sup>
- 21 percent of dog guardians want to breed their dog, and 13 percent think their dog is too young to be altered.<sup>3</sup>
- An estimated five million cats and dogs are killed in shelters each year.<sup>1</sup> That’s one about every six and one half seconds.
- Tens of millions<sup>4</sup> of stray and feral cats struggle to survive on their own outdoors. Although some are altered and live in managed colonies, most are not altered and receive no health care. They reproduce at will and many suffer from illness or injury before dying.<sup>5</sup>



- More than half (56 percent) of dog guardians and nearly two-thirds (63 percent) of cat guardians rank pet over population as the most important pet issue.<sup>3</sup>
- In a study of relinquishment of cats and dogs in 12 U.S. animal shelters, 30 percent of the surrendered dogs were purebreds.<sup>6</sup>
- The same study indicated that 55 percent of the surrendered dogs and 47 percent of the surrendered cats were unaltered.<sup>6</sup>
- It costs U.S. taxpayers an estimated \$2 billion each year to round up, house, kill, and dispose of homeless animals.<sup>7</sup>
- More than 56 percent of dogs and puppies entering shelters are killed, based on reports from more than 1,055 facilities across America.<sup>8</sup>
- Approximately 71 percent of cats and kittens entering shelters are killed, based on reports from 1,055 facilities across America.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Humane Society of the US—Pet Overpopulation Facts (1999)  
[http://www.hsus.org/programs/companion/overpopulation/op\\_fs.html](http://www.hsus.org/programs/companion/overpopulation/op_fs.html)

<sup>2</sup> National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy—The Top Ten Reasons for Pet Relinquishment to Shelters in the United States  
<http://www.petpopulation.org/topten.html>

<sup>3</sup> The State of the American Pet—A Study Among Pet Owners. Prepared by Yankelovich Partners for Ralston Purina, October 2000.  
<http://www.purina.com/images/articles/pdf/TheStateofThe.pdf>

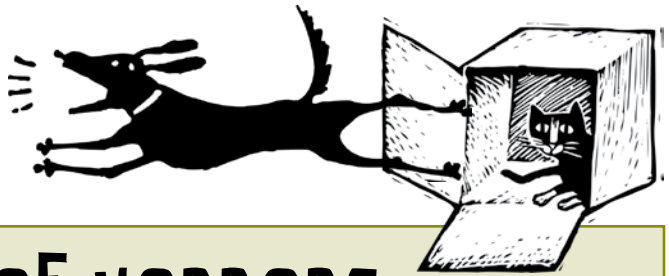
<sup>4</sup> Alley Cat Allies.  
<http://www.alleycat.org/>

<sup>5</sup> Alley Cat Rescue  
<http://www.saveacat.org/>

<sup>6</sup> Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science, 1998, Vol.1, No.3, p. 213

<sup>7</sup> USA Today, June 23, 1998, pg. 1

<sup>8</sup> National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy—Shelter Statistics Survey (1997 data)  
<http://www.petpopulation.org/statsurvey.html>



## LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

*By Christine Titus, Volunteer Programs Coordinator*

When people think about animal abuse and neglect, pet stores are not usually the first source of animal cruelty that comes to mind. Sadly, however, pet stores often sacrifice the health and safety of animals for profit, or simply treat them as “inventory” with little regard for their welfare.

Pet store investigations call for a team approach between Seattle Animal Shelter (SAS) and Seattle-King County Department of Public Health. SAS is responsible for making certain animals have clean water, proper food, appropriate shelter, and veterinary care. The Health Department handles animal care issues as they relate to public health, including zoonotic diseases, diseases that can be transferred from animals to humans.

Recently, in response to a call from a concerned citizen, SAS and the Health Department conducted a joint investigation of a local pet store. The investigation uncovered threats to both animals and people: filth, foul food and water, sick animals, and lack of proper hygiene practices.

More than 30 birds were found crammed together in a small cage, which lacked food and water. Mice were packed so tightly together, in a filthy container, they had to struggle over the bodies of each other just to move. Lizards and snakes were left without food and

water. Some appeared sick or on the verge of death. All of the cages and tanks were littered with feces.

SAS and the Health Department advised the owner to clean up the store, provide veterinary care to the animals that needed it, and meet health code standards. When the owner refused to pay for veterinary costs, SAS took possession of the animals requiring medical attention (mostly reptiles) and gave them food, water, and clean bedding for the night. The next day, SAS placed the reptiles with a species-appropriate rescue group, where they are currently thriving.

The pet store continues to be under investigation.

If you are concerned about the welfare of animals you see in pet stores (including lack of water, food, shelter, or vet care), please call SAS at (206) 386-PETS and Seattle-King County Health Department at (206) 296-4880. Your call could save many precious lives.

Make a commitment to get your next pet from your local animal shelter or rescue group. There are many wonderful animals – including cats, dogs, rabbits, reptiles, birds, and more-- in need of good homes. Visit the animals on [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com)



# SEATTLE ANIMAL SHELTER SERIOUS ABOUT PET IDENTIFICATION

## *Zero-tolerance policy in effect for unlicensed pets*

Safe return of your lost pet is priceless, but if your dog, cat or pot-bellied pig doesn't have a license, that could be expensive. Earlier this year, Humane Law Enforcement Officers began sweeping Seattle parks, neighborhoods and off-leash areas to enforce a zero-tolerance policy for unlicensed pets. The citation for failing to license a pet is \$54, and there is a \$15 penalty for late renewals.

"We strongly encourage owners of unlicensed pets to do the right thing for their companion animals. A pet license is the best insurance policy you can buy for your pet," says Don Jordan, Seattle Animal Shelter executive director. "For instance, if your pet is wearing its license and it shows up at the shelter, we will notify you that your pet is here. Or, if we find your licensed pet in the field, we'll return it directly to you instead of taking it to the shelter. Often an injured animal wearing a license is more likely to receive veterinary care if you're not around," adds Jordan.

Jordan states that about 25 percent of Seattle pet owners fail to renew their licenses each year due to pet deaths or disappearances, because the owner has moved out of Seattle or because the pet has been given away. Many pet owners simply forget to renew their pet licenses. SAS

would like to remind owners to purchase licenses and renew on time. Not only does licensing benefit your pets, the revenue from pet licensing helps support the life-saving efforts of the shelter.

Purchasing or renewing a license is quick and easy. In addition to visiting SAS, you can purchase or renew licenses at most neighborhood service centers or online: [www.seattleanimalshelter.org](http://www.seattleanimalshelter.org). For more information, visit the web site or call 206-386-PETS.

### YOUR PETS WILL THANK YOU!



In addition to licensing, SAS strongly recommends microchipping your pet and attaching identification to your pet's collar. In the event of theft, loss or an emergency, these simple precautions will make it easier for Good Samaritans to return your pet safely to you.

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## A BIG THANK YOU

goes to all of the generous individuals and organizations that donated supplies and money to assist in the care and placement of Seattle's orphaned pets.

Donations arrived from a wide range of organizations, including chiropractic clinics, veterinary hospitals, pet supply stores, Internet corporations, and others. Local high school students set up collection booths outside pet supply stores and then came to the shelter to distribute their donations to the animals. During their visit, the students got to see first-hand the difference their contributions make. All of these groups and individuals have collected money, toys, food, and blankets to help make lonely pets more healthy and happy while waiting for adoption.

It is difficult to express what a big difference your donations make, but on behalf of SAS staff, volunteers, and especially the orphans:





# Attention Small Animal Lovers!

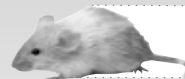


**Interested in making  
a difference?**

**rabbits, guinea pigs, rodents, reptiles,  
birds and even some farm animals**

**The Seattle Animal Shelter's "Critter Team"** provides daily care and affection to all kinds of abandoned pets waiting to be adopted at the shelter. We get to know all the shelter rabbits, guinea pigs, rodents, reptiles, birds and even some farm animals.

Foster homes are also needed to care for babies or animals who are injured, ill or extra shy. It's a great opportunity to learn and have fun while helping needy animals in our community.



To find out more about becoming a Seattle Animal Shelter volunteer, please call 206-615-0820. To become a foster parent contact Suzanne at [fosterbuns44@yahoo.com](mailto:fosterbuns44@yahoo.com)

SEATTLE  
**animal shelter**  
2061 15th Ave West • Seattle, WA 98119

# KEEP YOUR PETS **SAFE** DURING DISASTERS

Planning ahead is the key



## ► **ALWAYS KEEP A COLLAR AND TAG ON YOUR PETS.**

During a disaster an animal can escape and a collar and tag increase your chance of recovering the animal. Even indoor-only cats need tags, however make sure all cat collars are “break-away.” On the tag, include your phone number and address. You may want to consider tattooing or microchipping your animals as a more permanent form of identification. If you have been evacuated or are away from home for an extended period of time, create temporary tags with your current information.

## ► **IDENTIFY SEVERAL LOCATIONS WHERE YOU COULD TAKE YOUR ANIMALS SHOULD YOU HAVE TO EVACUATE**

Consider boarding kennels, veterinary clinics with boarding space, grooming facilities, dog and cat clubs, and training clubs – but not in an area that will be hit by the same disaster as your home. Don’t forget to consider friends and family members. Look for hotels/motels that accept animals. Bookstores sell books that list “pet friendly” lodging. It is important to know that Red Cross evacuation shelters will not allow animals, other than service dogs.

## ► **START A BUDDY SYSTEM WITH SOMEONE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD**

Exchange information on veterinarians and have a permission slip on file at the vet, authorizing your “buddy” to get necessary emergency treatment for your animal should you not be able to be reached. If someone watches your animals while you are on vacation, talk with them about their disaster plans.

## ► **KEEP A WEEK’S SUPPLY OF EMERGENCY PET FOOD**

Store the dry food in an airtight/water proof container. If you use canned food, buy the flip top cans or have a can opener with your disaster supplies. Also stock favorite treats, which can be a comfort and provide needed entertainment for pets during stressful times.

## ► **KEEP AT LEAST A WEEK’S SUPPLY OF WATER FOR YOUR PETS**

It can be stored in the gallon containers it is purchased in, but do not keep it in direct sunlight, as algae will start to grow. It is important to not let animals drink floodwater or any other water sources that may be contaminated as a result of a disaster. If you are drinking bottled water or purified water during a disaster that is what your animals should be drinking.

## ► **KEEP PHOTOS OF YOUR PETS AND TAKE THEM WITH YOU IF YOU MUST EVACUATE**

These pictures can help reunite you with a lost animal. Store the pictures in a resealable plastic bag.

► **TALK TO YOUR VETERINARIAN TO SEE IF HE/SHE HAS A DISASTER PLAN**

Your animal may need medical attention after a disaster has struck. If your regular veterinarian does not have a disaster plan, locate a veterinarian in your community who does. Also, keep a first aid kit and first aid book in your disaster kit for your animals. Assembled kits and books can be bought at pet supply stores or ask your veterinarian for help assembling one.

► **IF AN ANIMAL IS ON LONG-TERM MEDICATION, ALWAYS KEEP A BACKUP SUPPLY**

If the medication needs to be refrigerated, keep an ice chest on hand to store it in, in case the electricity is off and you are unable to use your refrigerator. If you need ice, you can usually get it from a Red Cross shelter.

► **KEEP ONE CAT CARRIER FOR EACH CAT YOU MAY HAVE TO EVACUATE**

An “Evacsak” is an alternative to a carrier. It is similar to a pillowcase, but is a much safer and more secure way to transport a small animal. They can be purchased by con-

tacting Animal Care Equipment and Services at 1-800-338-ACES. Carriers are needed, however, to house a cat if you have to be away from your home for an extended period of time. Be sure to have a small litter box and food and water dishes to use in the carrier.

► **HAVE A HARNESS AND LEASH FOR EACH DOG IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD.**

During evacuation, dogs can become frightened and might slip out of collars. A harness will allow you to securely control your dog. If your dog rides in the car, always have a leash in the vehicle. A disaster may occur while you are away from home.

► **LOCATE OUTDOOR DOG RUNS IN SAFE AREAS**

Tree limbs, shingles, power lines, chimney bricks, etc. can fall on runs during a disaster.

► **COMFORT YOUR ANIMALS DURING A DISASTER**

They are frightened too. If an animal is not ready to be comforted, however, do not force it. This is especially true for cats. Let an animal come to you when it is ready.

► **KNOW THE LOCATION OF ANIMAL SHELTERS AND ANIMAL RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS IN YOUR AREA**

You may need to visit them after a disaster to look for a missing animal. It is important to start looking for a missing animal as soon as you can. During a disaster, some shelters may not be able to house displaced animals for long.

*Contents of this article are from United Animal Nations  
[http://www.uan.org/ears/companion\\_animals.html](http://www.uan.org/ears/companion_animals.html)*



## seattle animal shelter WISH LIST

- TOWELS
- BLANKETS
- RUGS
- CANNED CAT AND DOG FOOD
- KMR - KITTEN MILK REPLACEMENT
- IAMS BISCUITS
- IAMS DRY DOG & CAT FOODS
- KONG BALLS
- NYLABONES
- CRATES (ANY SIZES)
- SNUGGLE-SAFE PADS (TO KEEP KITTENS WARM)
- CAT TOYS
- SMALL SIZED CAT LITTER BOXES

*All of these items can be purchased from your local pet supply store.*







Seattle Animal Shelter's Habitat 4 Hounds, a community-based, doghouse drive, helps families in need provide protection for their pets. H4H is an annual doghouse drive that provides comfortable shelter to animals in need. Humane Law Enforcement officers, who see animals without shelter, can send pet guardians to select a house for their pets – at no cost! Veterinarians often know of

animals in need and contact the agency for houses. There is no qualification process to receive a doghouse, and no one is turned away. Doghouses provide protection from the rain, wind, and cold. Even during the summer months, doghouses are useful for providing shade from the sun and protection from the rain for outdoor dogs. Each winter, hundreds of outdoor pets face chilling temperatures, rain, wind, and snow, which can cause extreme discomfort, health problems, and even death. Adequate shelter can be life saving. Right now, the shelter supply is low. Houses should be new or in good condition. "Dogloos" are especially desirable (hard plastic is very durable and wind- and rain-resistant). If you would like to donate a doghouse, please bring donations to the Seattle Animal Shelter: 2061 - 15th Avenue West (1 mile south of the Ballard bridge). Doghouses may be placed in the fenced area, just west of the shelter. Look for the bright-green "DOG HOUSE DROP OFF & PICK UP" banner. For more information, please call (206) 386-PETS

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